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LANCASTER

OUTLINES OF A PLAN  
FOR EDUCATING TEN  
THOUSAND POOR  
CHILDREN

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OUTLINES  
OF A  
*Plan*  
FOR EDUCATING  
TEN THOUSAND POOR CHILDREN,  
BY  
*Establishing Schools*  
IN COUNTRY TOWNS AND VILLAGES;  
AND  
FOR UNITING WORKS OF INDUSTRY  
WITH  
*Useful Knowledge.*

---

UNDER ROYAL PATRONAGE.

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THE absolute ignorance in which we are born, and the propensity we manifest immediately to receive impressions from what we see and hear, are an evident proof of our Maker's design, that we should be formed by education into what we are to be.

THE wisest and best of ancient legislators and philosophers have all prescribed a strict education of youth, as the foundation of every thing good.

ARCHBISHOP SECKER.

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BY JOSEPH LANCASTER.

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1806.

PRICE ONE SHILLING AND SIXPENCE.



## To the King.

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GRACIOUS AND BELOVED SOVEREIGN,

IN introducing this plan to my country, seeking its welfare and happiness, I cannot do less, with that high deference which I owe thee, O KING, as the father and friend of thy people, than thus publicly to offer my humble tribute of gratitude and thanks for the high honor conferred by thee, thy consort the QUEEN, and thy ROYAL FAMILY, in patronising and supporting these plans, when submitted to thy royal notice, by one who prays, that God may reward this act of royal benevolence manifold into thy bosom:

And remains,

With gratitude and respect,

Thy faithful and affectionate subject,

*J. LANCASTER.*





OUTLINES  
OF A  
Plan  
FOR EDUCATING  
TEN THOUSAND POOR CHILDREN,  
UNDER  
ROYAL PATRONAGE.

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PUBLIC curiosity having been much excited by reports of the Plan for educating TEN THOUSAND POOR CHILDREN in the country, under *Royal Patronage*, it becomes a desirable thing, that an account should be published, containing the grand outlines of a design, so interesting in its nature, and so extensive in its object.

This detail would have been given much earlier, if every thing had been sufficiently matured: it was proper, and indeed only dutiful to the KING, the QUEEN, and the PRINCESSES, who had honoured it with their

approbation and distinguished patronage, to wait, at least, till it had been introduced to the several branches of their illustrious family: this has been most happily accomplished, and received in a manner that will ever leave an indelible impression of gratitude on the author's mind.

It was also desirable, that the foundation stone should be laid, and the design began; this also has been already crowned with complete and happy success: it was equally desirable, that the author should have the opportunity of consulting his friends, feeling the task arduous, and distrusting his own abilities in a work of so much magnitude and importance.

From early life, the author devoted himself, his time, his talents, and his money, to the education of youth; placed, as by the superintending hand of Divine Providence, in a neigh-

neighbourhood, in the vicinity of London, abounding with ignorance, poverty, and vice; he was anxious to employ the abilities, he was favored with, in attempting to rescue some of the rising generation from the baneful contagion of the depraved, and often dreadful example they were exposed to. He began his humble labours, in hope, that He, “whose love is unto every man, and whose mercy, over all his works,” would crown them with his blessing. Remembering the good advice of William Penn, in whatever we do, “to begin and end with God:” he did not think it sufficient to implore assistance and wisdom from him, “that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not;” but also to begin with religion as of the first importance, and the most infinite moment to children of parents, destitute of any themselves. The author does not mean by this, that he inculcated any controversial or sectarian tenets, but those truths of Revelation, without which

no man can be a Christian, and which all centre in practical godliness and holiness of life: the mode in which this was done, was by assembling weekly, a number of the most promising among the youth, to tea: in their welfare he took a lively interest, and endeavoured to improve their minds by solidly reading the Holy Scriptures: this brought them into habits of quietness, attention, and reverence for the sacred writings, and, after the first introduction of this method, it would have been thought highly criminal to have caused the slightest interruption, while so serious and important a concern as reading the Bible was going forward; this general reverence for religion, and religious exercises, prepared the way in the minds of these amiable young people, for imbibing the weighty truths of Christianity in a more extensive manner: the effect was, that the author could not only commit more to the care of these lads, in managing the school, but could place a dependance on them, that they  
would

would not tell untruths. The prevalence of this principle, the love of truth, led to a certainty of detection, which, in a great measure, precluded the commission of offences; and as orderly conduct produced approbation, and merit ensured reward; the duty of teacher and scholar was rendered very pleasant: with such instruments, the first endeavours were almost sure of being crowned with ultimate success. This was entirely owing to a blessing on the humble endeavours; the author had used to imbue their tender minds with principles, which taught them to act as beings formed for eternity, and created to live for ever. Although the author is a dissenter, not from party, but from conscience; in interesting himself for the education of the poor, his motive was benevolence; he had no sectarian interests to promote; and the good consequence was very evident in the instance of religious worship. The children were, in general, sons of parents  
very

very indifferent about their best welfare : they went to no place of worship, nor cared whether their offspring did or not. The children were affectionately addressed on the neglect of this important duty : each individual was recommended to go to some place of public worship, according to his conscience and best knowledge : several voluntarily acted according to the advice given—this was more pleasant, as it became the act of their own judgment ; and I have now two particular instances in mind, of lads becoming *regular* attendants at church, who, but for this general care, would most probably never have gone there at all.

To the advantages the author enjoyed in having docile lads, who were capable of being easily brought in good order, is to be added, the peculiar advantages of the system of education, on which he thought it right to act : these are too multifarious to be  
recited

recited in the few pages which compose this tract; they alone occupy a volume: but a small outline can be given.

The author expected to be able to educate children at the rate of about one guinea per annum; his object was to try several experiments in education, by which it could be ascertained, what number of children could be educated under one person, by the most expeditious means, and at the smallest expense: and this object was attained in an eminent degree. In reading, a method was fallen upon to reduce the price of books, and the expense of teachers, affording, at the same time, encouragement and rewards for the deserving pupils. In writing, the practice and proficiency was increased beyond example. The art of teaching arithmetic was, in the first instance, reduced to a system of mere reading and writing; any boy who could read, could teach; and any number of boys who could write, could learn elementary

elementary arithmetic by this method ; and a counterpart was devised, by which the mind is exercised as well as the memory. The instructions given to the poor were limited to reading, writing, and the first four rules of arithmetic ; without which acquisitions, the poor cannot discharge the common duties of life to advantage ; and in communicating this instruction, themselves were made the agents.

The whole expense, in the course of repeated experiments, was reduced to the rate of seven shillings per annum, per head ; and improvements are now in view, which will reduce it, under the same system, to four shillings per head, and perhaps less : when the author has finished what he has in view, it will be communicated to the public, at least, as far as applicable to the education of the poor.

This may appear at first glance an Utopian scheme ; but thousands can attest it is not  
idle



idle chimera. The author, with the aid of assistance from his friends, had reduced his ideas to practice, and half matured his plan before the public were aware, that any such plans were in existence, or even in contemplation; and when the plan was once seen, the simplicity and harmony of the design spoke conviction of its utility to the breast of every friend of the poor, that visited the school: this gradually introduced it to the public notice: inquiries were made for the particulars: to satisfy which they were published in the form of a tract, one edition rapidly succeeded another, and the improvements in the plan made a third needful, of this 3500 copies were ordered to be printed, in the bulk of an octavo volume: and, before the impression was struck off, it was all subscribed for\*.

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The

\* None were left for the public sale; and now the fourth edition is in the press. *It is quite desirable,* that all persons  
who

The plan, maturing thus gradually, at length reached the royal ear, and was honored with royal notice. The author had the honor to wait upon the KING, the QUEEN, and the PRINCESSES, at Weymouth, to give details of his method of instructing the poor, and to present his book personally to each. His mind, to this moment, dwells with gratitude and delight on the gracious condescension shown by the KING, the QUEEN, and the PRINCESSES, in the interview they honored him with: the piety he witnessed, was of a most gratifying nature to a mind that loves his sovereign and all his illustrious family. Their royal goodness was not confined to simply having a confirmation of the advantages that had been related to them before, by eye witnesses,

who wish for copies, will send their subscriptions speedily: otherwise, the demand is increasing, and the subscription will soon be filled up; the author hopes his friends will not blame him if they should be disappointed, for when the impression is half struck off, it is not to be expected the book can be reprinted for a small number of additional subscribers.

but

but, on stating the advantages that it was capable of, if extended to the country, the KING, the QUEEN, and the PRINCESSES, began the subscription annexed, and the example was immediately followed by the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, the DUKE and DUCHESS of YORK, and the ROYAL DUKES, as follows :

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It is hoped, this example will be followed, in a liberal manner, by the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy. The author trusts the reader will excuse his closing this part of the subject, with observing, an expression in holy writ, *The blessing of them that are ready to perish shall come upon thee.* This instance of Royal Benevolence may prove, under the Divine blessing, the means of salvation to thousands who would perish indeed, not only for want of knowledge of their duties as christians, but even for want of the necessaries of life; which, with a little more knowledge united to habits of industry and prudence, may be readily obtained.

The author knows not how to express his humble earnest gratitude; but he prays for a Divine blessing upon this bounty to the poor: may it prosper, and future generation rise and call its Royal Patrons blessed.

The

The object of this subscription, is to enable the author to extend the benefits of his plan of religious and moral instruction to the poor in the country, and, by different modifications and improvements, to adapt it to the simple elements of agriculture, and some mechanic arts. That a portion of time usually spent by youths in schools, or in idleness at home, may be devoted to the acquisition of industrious habits, as well as useful knowledge.

Several trades are in view for the employment of youth; and some have already been attempted, with a good prospect of success.

The situation, chosen for the first essay, is Maiden Bradley, near Frome, Somersetshire. The reasons for fixing on this spot, together with a description of it (melancholy enough) will be given in the sequel. It is calculated, that two thousand per annum will educate



ten thousand poor children, if to this we add, the reasonable expectation that we shall be able to teach youth to earn their own living—its advantages, are, indeed, promising.

The author desires no personal remuneration for this *labour of love*: he already feels, by experience, *difficulties* and *fatigues*, particularly in travelling, most of which he had appreciated before hand. It is, indeed, an arduous work, but it is a work in which he delights. The happy effect of his endeavour to rescue a number of youth from misery and vice, stimulates him to hope and exert himself in future: boys, who owe all the knowledge they have obtained, to the School, first established in Southwark, who have left it several years, and conducted themselves, in the interim, highly to their own credit, have now arrived nearly to manhood, and are engaged as the first instruments of training youths to employments; of setting up schools

for boys; and some females, who have also been educated by the same means, are likely to establish Schools for Girls. This is, indeed, a most gratifying circumstance: it is like planting an oak, and raising others from its acorns. Nothing can be more encouraging, unless it is the mutual regard and confidence, now of long standing, between their masters and themselves.

The author now introduces an account of the place, chosen for a central school, and will attempt to describe what has been done, and is intended to be done there.

Maiden Bradley is a village belonging, as well as the lands contiguous, to the Duke of Somerset. From one unhappy circumstance or other, many of its inhabitants are remarkable for their ignorance, poverty, and wickedness.

The parish being, with little if any exception, the property of the Duke, who feels greatly for the wretchedness of its poor inhabitants. His friendship and influence, likely to be so well exerted, is considered as a most valuable acquisition by the author's friends as well as himself. Another circumstance, the Duke has some waste land, conveniently situated near the village. This is now let to the author, on very moderate terms, and will be speedily brought into cultivation by lads.

It is taken for the singular purpose of sowing grain, in order to reap the straw, and, under the fear of very great disappointment, in case the land, poor as it is, should afford a crop of any thing better. It will want little or no plowing, and no manure. The more stunted the straw, the more likely to answer its purpose.

The children are numerous, though it is but a small village. There are no day schools of any kind near the place; and, from all the information he has yet obtained, there are few, or none in a very populous district extending several miles around. The misery of Bradley arises from various causes. The bulk of the inhabitants are very poor, and extremely ignorant; and few have constant employment. There is an officiating but no resident clergyman.

The allowance of relief from the parish, to persons in distress, or out of employ, is scanty. In no case is it more than two shillings per week, for each person in family, including their own earnings. If they can earn two shillings, they have no allowance. The situation of solitary individuals is, indeed, deplorable: the slender pittance often tempts the well meaning, affectionate parent, to steal; and the question is soon decided, when it is steal,

steal, or starve. Thus, what is at first a violation of principle from the iron hand of necessity, becomes a pernicious habit, and the evil is tenfold increased by the ignorance of the poor: few can read their Bible; few have any Bible to read; and too many are devoid of reverential awe for him, who has said, "Thou shalt not steal." The author is assured of one fact:—a poor, pious woman (for there are a pious few, even in Bradley) when, in the last stage of an afflictive illness, looked around the room (in a cottage, in this island, favored, as it is, with the mercies and the bounty of a gracious God) for something to eat, and seeing nothing but some rotten wood she thought she could eat that. She is now gone to her eternal home. Her daughter is still living, and ready to attest the fact. The poor are not only miserable for food, living, like the Irish, much on potatoes, but stealing almost as many as they grow. It is thought the interest of the farmers to reduce the poor-

rates

rates, as low as they can; but is it humanity to suffer our fellow creatures to pine, and steal, and perhaps die for want? It is the want of employment and of education, and by selfish economy, in the management of the poor, that so much misery and distress are caused at Bradley: causes of which, the present Duke and Duchess of Somerset are certainly not the authors; but, on the contrary, are exerting their benevolent endeavours to alleviate them; and, bad as things are now, they once were much worse.

The parish workhouse is a place fit only for wild beasts: a chemist would almost imagine the overseers had placed the poor there to try the method of *converting smoke into pitch*. There is one room in particular, in which the whole apartment is *blackened*, equal to paint, but much more dismal; and, over the fire-place, the soot is literally turned into pitch.

An elderly person, who has been in the army, and spent thirteen years in Ireland, during which, he often was obliged to take up his quarters in the smoke-dried, mud-walled cabins of the wild Irish, assures me, he found them more comfortable than the workhouse at Bradley. It can hardly be called a workhouse. The poor in it, are persons placed there because they cannot, in *any* way, pay rent: but they have neither guide, overseer, or ruler: each has his own solitary fare, and when they have no work to do, *they sleep by day and steal at night.*

The workhouse is a long building; thatched; the floors are torn up; the windows broken; and the whole has the appearance of a carcase of several miserable cottages—one room has no chimney but the window: almost every person in the parish, except the farmers and one or two tradesmen, are on the poor books. This workhouse (the very name is a  
burlesque

burlesque on common sense) is full of poor inhabitants; and, on entering it, the *children* look like a little swarm of bees.

Almost the whole village are remarkable for want of economy in the consumption of coals. The wide fire places of the last century are to be found in profusion at Bradley. The fires generally consist of coals, and not unfrequently of wood, stolen from the Duke's plantations: but, a cinder sieve is probably as great a novelty among the old folks, as a paper kite is among the young ones. When the coals are burnt, the cinders are thrown away. The same want of economy is conspicuous in other things.

There is a silk house, in which some of the girls are employed: they work all day, and many of them walk the streets in the evening: they were once much worse than at present,



present, a stranger could scarce enter the town without molestation from them.

This is a true, but melancholy narrative. It could be wished, for the honor of our country, that no such facts were in existence. Wherever the author has stated the outlines of this, it has excited regret, that so much misery should be found in the country; and, on mentioning it to a pious bishop, whose kindness, will always command his gratitude and respect, he said, "In settling there, you may do some good." He certainly felt, with the philanthropy of a christian, for a poor, dark, depraved race of people, who live as without God, and without hope in the world.

Many persons of mature age in Bradley appear dreadfully corrupt; and the rising generation are nursed in the lap of contamination. This was an especial reason for

settling the first institution at Bradley. It is a field for labour, where, if any good is done, the contrast will be of the most striking nature; and thus show to the nation what good education, united with industry, is capable of producing. It is a situation in which the powerful influence of the Duke is nearly paramount; and the author enjoys not only full powers to exert himself, but the way is open to do it.

As the motives for this, and similar institutions are not sectarian, all the poor, of whatever denomination, will be permitted to send their children, of both sexes, and have them educated, gratis. As many of them as can be taught to earn their own living, will be boarded in the establishment.

The plan, the KING has honored with his patronage, embraces two objects; one, the  
 foundation

foundation and establishment of institutions in the country, on the same system of instruction, as that in the Borough Road: the other, the application of the same principles of system and order which distinguish that Institution to agriculture, and some mechanic arts. Before the author enters into that part of his plan, which relates to Schools in the country, he will state his intentions, and the experiments he is making, to connect industry of various kinds with education.

In the first place, the breaking up of waste land is connected with the growth of rye-straw, and the consequent employment of young females in platting it. From the first breaking up of the land to the finish of the manufacture, employment for young persons will be liberally afforded; and, our own consumption will be supplied by our own manufacture, without the least connection  
 E 2 with

with Leghorn as at present, at the expense of fifty thousand per annum.

As the author's treatise, *Improvements in Education*, contains an ample detail of the advantages that will result to this country, from the establishment of this *new* and important branch of manufacture: he will not enlarge here; and it is not necessary he should, as the KING and the QUEEN have patronized it, by accepting and wearing summer hats, made from straw grown in this country, and equal, if not superior, to the Leghorn manufacture itself. Some have already been made to such perfection, that Noblemen, who have been at Leghorn, have told the author, they never saw any thing in Leghorn equal to it; and the venders of the foreign article, supposed that manufactured in England, was foreign, till informed the contrary. To this may be added, the Society of Arts  
have

have voted the gold medal to the inventor, *William Corston, of Ludgate Hill*; and pronounced the invention a national benefit.

The author having already mentioned that he has a quantity of waste land at Maiden Bradley, which is proposed to be broken up by hand culture: a number of lads are now actually employed in doing it. It is a curious circumstance, that boys from London, who scarce ever handled a spade before, should teach boys in the country, brought up to agriculture, a new method how to use it: but this is the fact; and they do it to very good purpose. The boys, who break up the land, are classed according to their strength; a monitor being appointed to each class: all the classes are under one general monitor; they keep their spades, hoes, &c. in a place for that purpose; every implement is numbered; and each boy knows which belongs to him by that number; and is required

to

keep it clean and bright: when they go to work, they uniformly take their spades &c. at the word of command, and whatever movements they have to make, before they begin work, are effected the same way. A mode that proves a sure one, and secures co-operation in all they do. When they arrive on the ground, from which the dwelling house is some distance, they divide into two classes; one, the senior and most industrious boys, have square perches of land measured out for them, and they work, after receiving the order to begin, without any other command till they have done their work; the only question being which shall get done first. The other class do nothing without a new command for every motion: they consist of boys who are able to work, but either not so habitually active as the others, or more idle. The commands generally given are, "prepare to dig;" in which case each spade is grounded, and the foot placed on it by the boy whose it is.

When

When the monitor has seen each boy ready, he gives the word, “ dig,” and each spade is immediately pressed the full depth into the ground: when the monitor *has seen* every spade properly in the ground, they are ordered to “ turn,” and each boy, with one motion, turns the spade, and breaks the earth hé turns over with it: when this is done they go on as before. The suspense between each command, prevents their being over worked, and the monitor is occasionally relieved, in giving commands, by others.

The land is stony; and half the stones they dig out are to be their own. The stones sell in that country, for a shilling per load, for building cottages, and mending the turnpike roads, which run contiguous to the land: the giving them an interest in clearing the land of stones, makes it more likely it will be well cleared; indeed, if what they do in  
 future,

future, is as thoroughly cleared as what they have done already, and as clean, the author is persuaded it will be the general interest of the Nobility and Gentry to have their waste lands broken up in this way, if the lands are of a stony or sandy nature, much encumbered with deep rooted furze, which must be broken up by hand labour, and cleared from roots, in the first instance, before they can be fit for the plow. The labour of men and of boys, usually employed in agriculture, is, of course, as different in quantity, in any given space of time, as the comparative difference in their strength is; but the difference in their wages, and their powers, bears no comparison. In Somersetshire, where men work for nine and twelve shillings a week, boys work for three shillings and four and sixpence. It is probable, the labour of boys, in breaking up waste land, may be rendered nearly as effective as that of men, and be considerably cheaper. If a proportionate



proportionate interest is given them in the crops of the lands, the first year, it will be found a most powerful stimulus to exertion ; as the more land they break up for the proprietor, the more they break up for themselves ; and, after broken up, the cleaner the crops are kept, and the more abundant they prove, the greater interest the boys have in doing their duty, and more lastingly so, than would be the case when paid as day labourers : but this is presuming there is an establishment at, or near the spot, where the boys may reside while breaking up the land. There is another improvement replete with benefit to the country, the use of the Portuguese hoe ; for the knowledge of this, the author is much indebted to his benevolent friend and patron, *Lord Somerville* ; he refers the reader to the quotation on this subject : “ In the use of the hoe they (the Portuguese) excel in a very great degree. The strong land in their vineyards, which must be dug by  
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hand,

hand, could not be worked by hoes, upon a construction common with us ; but the handle being short as well as light, the hoe, by its own *weight* and *conical form*, cuts deep without much exertion. Every man who has seen these implements at work, will bear testimony to their extraordinary powers. Mr. Mark Ducket, in his ingenious invention of a hoe for cleaning crops of all descriptions, whether drilled or hand-set in rows, seems to have availed himself of a short handle and heavy iron-work, the exact reverse of our common hoe, which, except on the lightest sands, demands great exertions to make any impression whatever, if the soil be dry\*.” Experience has proved that a boy may dig up a perch and an half, and sometimes two perches, to one dug up, *by the spade* : its effect in depth, as used by expert labourers in Portugal, are little inferior to the spade, and

\* Vide Lord Somerville's Board of Agriculture, 1800.

greatly

greatly superior to repeated plowings. The success experienced at Maiden Bradley has been greatly increased by this instrument, and, it is expected, that, in a very short time, some decided and successful experiments will be made, and submitted to the public, which will place it in a clear light, and make its advantages apparent to every man of common sense.

*Lord Somerville* has favored the author with his advice as to the site of the buildings, erecting at Bradley, when going over the land with him; and it affords him much pleasure to have this public opportunity of acknowledging, with sentiments of respect and gratitude, this addition to the many instances of kindness repeatedly shown before.

Endeavours have been used to introduce Shoe-making, Basket-making, Tailoring, and *several other* trades, not before introduced

into schools of industry : a few months will decide the success of these experiments, and they will be accurately submitted to the public.

It is intended to establish at Bradley, and the vicinity, as many schools as may be needful for the benefit of the neighbourhood ; schools, in which young men, designed for schoolmasters, may be practically qualified for that important station ; and afterwards take charge of other schools, which benevolent persons may be disposed to open.

The author is a dissenter, not from party spirit, but from conscience. He is anxious to serve his country in any way he can. His plan is not to draw the children of members of the establishment, from the religion of their forefathers ; or, on the other hand, to make converts from the children of dissenters. He only laments, as a Christian, that there  
 should

should be, in this highly favored nation, above *four hundred thousand* poor children, who have never learnt to read their Bibles. He is convinced, that although what is termed Sunday schools may be of partial use as to religious instruction, yet he is convinced they are very inadequate as to useful learning; and to instruct the youth of the nation any other way would require either a much cheaper mode of educating youth; or a fund that perhaps can scarcely be hoped for, as a national fund, in the present state of things. It is the same whether our present means to do good are doubled, or whether the effects of the means we already have are increased in like proportion: the consequences are alike in either case.

The author has many solicitations to open schools in the country, on the same plan as that in London. The season for opening schools is now advancing; and he is desirous to do all the good he can, “To work while

is day, as the night cometh in which no man can work :” and he submits to the public the following plan, on which he wishes to act ; and on which he can unite with his Christian brethren of all denominations.

That, in any town district, where the clergymen of the establishment and of the dissenters, with the respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood, have patriotism and piety to unite and form a society for the instruction of some, or all the uneducated youth in the town, &c. on general Christian principles, he will most cordially unite, as far as leisure will admit, to assist them, by uniting, by qualifying for teachers, men, *they may choose*, and meeting the committees they may appoint, where the meetings can be arranged, so as to fall on successive days, at different towns, if they lay within the limits of his tours ; and where it is desired, on consenting to the regulations he may find needful at Bradley : he designs to  
 impart,

impart, when mature, the principles on which he conducts his schools of industry, and to qualify them so pursue the same occupations in schools of their own.

The uniting employment and instruction together is a desirable object; and at Bradley the boys are all employed in the fields, or, if wet, in industry, within doors; and, in the evening, spend about three hours at school; and it is desirable the knowledge of all that may be found really useful should be extensively spread, particularly among persons designed as teachers of youth.

The author introduces, to the notice of benevolent persons, a plan, containing, in substance, the proceedings and resolutions of a committee in a large and populous sea-port town, in which the Clergy of all denominations have liberally united with the Bankers, Merchants, and Corporation, in resolving to form themselves

selves into a society, for the Education of the *Children of the Poor in the town, and neighbourhood.*

It is agreed, that the school shall be on general principles, that nothing but the scriptures shall be introduced into it; that the children of churchmen shall be entered as such, and the children of dissenters as such, on the books of the school, at the time of entering it. That they shall meet at the school on the day set apart for public worship, and that the children of each denomination shall go to their own place of worship; and, if their respective Ministers, or any persons are disposed to catechise them there in their peculiar religious principles, they may do it, as being their own flock, and in their own sheepfolds; but nothing of the kind to be done in the school: now what is like to be the consequence



quence of this cordial Christian co-operation: that in a town exposed to all the evils of dissipation and vice, usual in commercial towns, where the rising generation are training up in ignorance, wickedness, and forgetfulness of God, that very large numbers of them will soon be training in his fear; in the knowledge of his ways; and in the daily remembrance of his *commandments*. This is an example of benevolence worthy of extensive imitation; and does great honor to those professors of the Christian name, in the place alluded to, who, forgetting the desire of proselytism from sect to sect, have remembered, that the substance of Christianity is the same in all; and that to turn the wicked from the error of their ways, is more glorious and honorable than any selfish spirit of aggrandisement whatever. The following contain the substance of some of their resolutions.

*At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of this Town and its Vicinity, held, for the purpose of taking into consideration the State of the Children of the Poor of the said Town and its Neighbourhood.*

THE RECTOR OF

IN THE CHAIR.

RESOLVED,

THAT the state of the morals of the children of the poor, and the deficiency of their education, render it highly needful, that some effectual mode be adopted for the improvement of their morals, and for affording them a proper education, gratis.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Plan recommended by JOSEPH LANCASTER, and practised by him in the Borough Road, Southwark, appears best adapted to this end, and suited to the circumstances of this town and neighbourhood.

RESOLVED,

THAT for the purpose of promoting the important objects of this Meeting, a Society be formed, to be denominated, the Society for the Education of the Children of the Poor and the improvement of their morals; and that all Subscribers of ten shillings and sixpence a year,

OR

or upwards, or of ten guineas or more, in one donation, shall be Governors of this Society.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Society shall be under the direction of a Committee of seventeen; consisting of a President, three Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, and twelve other Members who shall be elected by the Governors.

RESOLVED,

THAT the children of all poor persons residing within the town of \_\_\_\_\_, and its neighbourhood, are proper objects of this Charity.

RESOLVED,

THAT A. be the President, B. C. and D. be the Vice Presidents, E. the Treasurer, and F. G. H. &c. twelve other Governors, the Committee.

RESOLVED,

THAT a General Meeting of the Subscribers shall take place every year, viz. on the first \_\_\_\_\_ day in \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Meetings of the Subscribers shall be called by the President, at the request of the Committee, or any seven Governors, seven days previous notice being given thereof; and of the business to be transacted. At the General Meeting, the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and other Members of the Committee, shall be annually elected: four of the seventeen Members of the Committee, who,

who, during the preceding year, had attended the least frequent, not having been absent from \_\_\_\_\_, or prevented by indisposition, shall go out, and be replaced by four other Governors of the Institution.

## RESOLVED

THAT the Committee shall meet on the last Friday in every month, and, at least, three Members be necessary to constitute a Meeting.

## RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee shall appoint all the Officers and Servants of the Charity; form temporary regulations for the management of the School, which shall be in force until the next General Meeting; but no longer, unless then confirmed.

## RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee shall, annually, with the concurrence of the General Meeting, publish a Report of the State of the Society.

## RESOLVED.

THAT no person, being a Member of the Committee, shall be employed in any business respecting the Society, for which a pecuniary compensation shall be made; or in providing any article, necessary to be purchased for the use of the Society.

## RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT the Treasurer shall receive all sums of money paid for the use of the Society, and shall give such security for the faithful discharge of his office, as the Committee deems sufficient: he shall make all payment, sanctioned by the Committee, and shall lay before them, at each Meeting, a statement of his account; and the same shall be audited and balanced, and submitted to the General Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Schoolmaster shall enter, or cause to be entered, daily, in a book, an account of the lessons performed by each class; also of the absentees; and shall keep a weekly account of the cause of such absence. He shall also make a monthly report of the same to the Committee, adding an account of the boys who have passed from class to class, in consequence of proficiency, during the month, and of the rewards distributed.

RESOLVED,

THAT the recommendation of any boy to this School is confined to the Governors: all recommendations to be signed by a Governor; and shall specify the parents name, number in family, trade, denomination of religion, age and name of the candidates for admission; which recommendations shall be submitted, monthly, to the Committee by the Clerk, and if the recommendations are numerous, shall be copied and arranged in the form of a list, previous to submission to the Committee, for their determination.

RESOLVED,

RESOLVED,

THAT the Committee shall, at each monthly meeting, appoint two Inspectors for each week of the ensuing month, who shall attend at least once in the week, at the School-room, for the purpose of ascertaining the progress made by the boys in their learning, and receive the masters reports, as directed by the Committee.

RESOLVED,

THAT the two Inspectors be requested to attend, every Sunday morning at the School-room, in time to see the scholars go to the respective places for worship, to which their parents belong; headed by the master and monitors; and that some of the Governors be desired to observe the scholars during the attendance at the places of worship, and report the same in writing to the Committee.

RESOLVED,

THAT this Meeting be adjourned to the day of \_\_\_\_\_ next, at \_\_\_\_\_ o Clock, at which time notice to be given by the Clerk to the Members of the Committee.

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The author begs leave to refer the reader to page 20, line 14; with respect to parish allowance, he makes this additional observation, "the poor where once allowed 2s. 6d. per week, but that was in a time of scarcity."



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